

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
April 26, 2021**

Directors Present: Jason Belter, Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Divya Karan, Nick LaRusso, Becky Lund, Theresa Nelson, Frank Ross, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter

Directors Absent: None

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Joe Aliperto (Dieci School Finance), Kriscell Estrella, Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Evan Odegard (Student Representative)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff, parents, and students

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Belter moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Agreement with Minneapple Health Services for school nurse services for SY2022
- B. Agreement with Kristen Pecha for consultive physical health/disabilities services for SY 2022
- C. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 701 (Establishment of Budget)
- D. 2nd reading/ potential approval of combined policies NP 702 and NP 714, now to be NP 702 (Fund Balance Requirements)
- E. 1st reading of revised policy NP 304 (Gifted and Talented Services)
- F. 1st reading of revised policy NP 305 (Section Size)
- G. 1st reading of revised policy NP 306 (Re-enrollment after Long-Term Leave)
- H. Regular March 29th minutes
- I. Agreement with Jason Milano for deaf/hard of hearing services for SY 2022

There was brief discussion regarding items on the consent agenda. Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Ross seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Brandon Cooke submitted electronic public comment commending the work done by Nova teachers and administration over the past year.

Jay Johnston submitted electronic public comment with his proposal to give Nova seniors an in-person opportunity for school for the remainder of the school year and requested the Board hold a special meeting to consider it.

Vinay Gidwani submitted electronic public comment to express his dismay and frustration with a decision to only allow written public comment to be submitted at the April 26th Board meeting.

Chris Tomhave submitted electronic public comment asking for some clarifications in the Employee Handbook relating to PTO accrual for hourly employees.

Bob Hayton submitted electronic public comment asking for more timely information regarding full in-person learning for the fall.

Stefanie Herschbach requested more transparency in making decisions for learning scenarios and ask that the Board create an ad hoc committee of parents to start working on a plan for getting all students back in the fall.

Ken Graeve spoke about the need for contingency planning for the fall and that it needs to start now. He also advocated for the ad hoc committee.

Kelly Rogosheske spoke about wanting more parent involvement in planning for the fall and in looking at different possibilities to continue to create a strong Nova community.

Oliver Crane spoke about his support for an ad hoc committee.

Eric Amann spoke about his support for an ad hoc committee.

V. Reports received by the Board.

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund added information about Nova's annual meeting with Friends of Education. He gave a summary of his conversation with Beth Topoluk including looking ahead at our renewal next year. No issues were brought up at this time; the final report will be given to Nova in a month or two.

There was discussion about the end of the year. There was also discussion about the process to replace the ACT Aspire standardized assessment. There was discussion regarding the Covid data. Congratulations were given to the administration and the Board for the forgiveness of our PPP loan.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Nelson gave an update about the withdrawal of the Conduit Report. She also spoke about planning for the fall. Finally, Ms. Nelson requested that board members send information to her regarding their thoughts on the parent proposal regarding creating an ad hoc committee.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

Ms. Lund gave a brief election update; the election starts today.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Ms. Winter reminded board members to fill out the Lease Aid form. There was discussion about some of the services approved in the Consent Agenda and how they're budgeted.

iii. **Academic Excellence Report**

D. **Ad Hoc Committees**

E. **NPTO Report**

Mrs. Gabor shared several highlights including bi-weekly coffees on Google Meet, their meetings on Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month, teacher grants, and working on their budget for next year. She added that they still need a Vice-Chair and Treasurer for next year.

F. **Student Report**

Mr. Odegard spoke about Senior Day on May 19, prom, and several spring sports like track, baseball, and tennis with Mounds Park Academy. He also spoke about ongoing conversations between the senior class and administration for a culmination to their school experience. Mr. Odegard finished by explaining that high school students are hoping to be done with distance learning after May and to be able to return to in-person learning in the fall. There was discussion.

VI. **Business**

A. **2nd Reading/ Potential Approval of Proposed FY22 Budget**

Ms. Lund, "Resolved that the Board approves the FY22 budget." Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. There was discussion. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **2nd Reading/ Potential Approval of the 2021-2022 Employee Handbook**

There was discussion about leave for hourly employees.

Theresa Nelson left at 7:18.

There was discussion about the gift amount paragraph. There was discussion about the employee dispute resolution process. There was discussion about stipends.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved that the Board approves the 2021-2022 Employee Handbook as presented in the April Board materials." Mr. Belter seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Revision to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar**

Dr. Wedlund gave the background information behind this motion.

Mr. Belter, "Resolved, that June 4, 2021 is made a planning day for the collection of materials." Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter,

Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Roday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on May 24, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.